

In the United States, business aviation and U.S. air carriers are experiencing record growth and are expected to carry over 1 billion passengers a year early in the next decade.

Aviation is an essential ingredient in the economic success of our Nation. The role of aviation can be seen each and every day at over 13,000 airports and landing facilities here in the United States. It is here that the men and women of the aviation industry strive to make the United States the world's leader in aviation.

The month of June has been designated as "Learn To Fly Month". I hope that more people will take an interest in aviation. In order to maintain our position as the world's leader in aviation, the United States must recognize the importance of highly qualified and well-trained pilots.

These pilots are a key ingredient in the success of the United States Aviation Industry and help to maintain the best aviation infrastructure in the world.

I place the following proclamation by Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater proclaiming June as Learn To Fly Month, in the RECORD and call it to the attention of my colleagues.

THE SECRETARY OF  
TRANSPORTATION,  
Washington, DC, June 9, 1998.

Whereas aviation is a vital link of our nation's transportation system and economy;

Whereas the growth, safety, and efficiency of aviation requires highly qualified pilots;

Whereas in 1996, fewer people undertook flight training than anytime since the Korean War, and the overall U.S. pilot population declined to the lowest number in over 20 years;

Whereas the United States Military is training fewer pilots than anytime in recent history;

Whereas the United States airlines and business aviation are experiencing record growth and are expected to carryover 1 billion passengers a year early in the next decade;

Whereas the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994 has stimulated the rebirth of light general aviation aircraft manufacturing in the United States;

Whereas general aviation is playing an increasingly important role in the nation's air transportation system serving over 13,000 airports and landing facilities;

Whereas the experience of flight offers the opportunity for personal challenge and self fulfillment in professional and personal endeavors;

Whereas GA Team 2000 has been formed by over 120 companies and associations representing all facets of the civil aviation industry with the specific purpose of stimulating more student pilots;

Whereas over 1600 flight training institutions and schools are participating in this national effort;

Therefore in special recognition of rebuilding America's pilot population, I Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation, do hereby proclaim June 1998 as Learn to Fly Month with the recognition that highly qualified and well trained pilots are an essential ingredient of our nation's aviation infrastructure.

RODNEY E. SLATER.

## TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA FRANCIS

### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Ms. Patricia Francis of Lynn, Massachusetts who has received an award from the Lynn Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Inc. for academic excellence.

I hope Patricia appreciates and is proud of her accomplishments. She has challenged herself by transitioning from bilingual classes to English only classes after only one year in the bilingual program. She has also successfully balanced several extracurricular activities with her academic responsibilities. Serving in her role as a mentor for elementary school children, Patricia has undoubtedly made an impression upon them about the importance of making a commitment to education. Her dedication is to be commended. I have no doubt that she will be successful in her future endeavors as she pursues her career goals in journalism starting at Salem State College.

Indeed, Ms. Francis has worked hard to achieve her goals. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here to recognize the accomplishments of Patricia Francis, and I hope my colleagues will join with me today in wishing Ms. Francis the very best as she continues her education.

## THE BUDGET

### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 10, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## THE BUDGET SURPLUS

One of the most striking economic developments this year has been the return of the federal budget surpluses. For the first time since the Johnson Administration the federal government will spend less than it receives in revenue. The deficits reached a record \$290 billion in 1992 under President Bush, and for many years they have dominated the policy debate in Washington. Turning this around has been a major accomplishment. Now Congress is faced with the quite different question of what to do with the surpluses.

## LATEST PROJECTIONS

The latest projections are that the federal budget will run a surplus of around \$50-60 billion this year. The projections are even better after that, as the combined surpluses over the next ten years could exceed \$1.5 trillion. These surpluses reverse the trend of the past three decades in which the federal government built up most of the national debt, which now stands at \$3.8 trillion.

## REASONS FOR SURPLUS

Part of the credit for the surplus goes to Congress, especially for passing the 1993 deficit reduction package. That helped to slow the growth of government spending and built greater spending restraint into the budget law. Major factors in holding down spending have been the shift toward managed care in Medicare and defense downsizing after the end of the Cold War.

But even more important than the spending restraint has been the growth in revenues coming into the Treasury because of the strong showing of the U.S. economy. More people have been working and hence paying taxes; the stock market has been booming, generating a sharp increase in capital gains taxes; and corporate profits have been high. Tax revenues during the month of April were some 14% higher than a year ago, and, because of the strong economy, tax receipts as a share of the economy have risen to 21.5%, a postwar record.

## NEED FOR CAUTION

Yet that dependence of the budget surplus on the economy's remarkable performance means we must be particularly cautious. Our economy will at some point slow down. The current economic expansion is the second longest since World War II, and the business cycle hasn't been repealed. When the economy slows, incoming revenues will drop and the surplus could be reduced or eliminated altogether. Even an average-sized recession could mean a \$100 billion budgetary shortfall for a year or two.

There's a second reason to be careful with these surpluses. Long-range forecasts can be quite unreliable. The forecast of a surplus five or ten years from now is not much better than an educated guess. Early last year, for example, the Administration was forecasting a \$121 billion deficit for 1998; now they are forecasting a sizable surplus. If we cut taxes or increase expenditures now, that will be very hard to reverse if the forecasts are wrong.

A third reason to be cautious is that the surpluses are to some degree an illusion. They occur because the tallying of federal spending and receipts includes the surpluses in Social Security. If the Social Security accounts are removed, the remaining tax payments fall tens of billions of dollars short of covering the full cost of providing government services.

The fourth reason for caution about the surpluses is a longer-term one. When the baby-boom generation begins to retire in about ten years, the whole demographic structure of our population changes. Between now and the year 2030 the number of people aged 65 or older will double, but the number of people ages 20 to 64 will increase by only about 15%. As the baby-boomers become eligible for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, that will put an enormous strain on federal spending. The biggest chunk of federal spending, by far, currently goes for programs for older Americans, and that will only increase in the years ahead.

## POLICY OPTIONS

The surpluses put us into an altogether new policy field, and there are many proposals in Washington today to cut taxes or increase spending. Yet I think a very strong case can be made for using the emerging surpluses to pay down the federal debt.

Despite the bright projections for the budget, the short-term uncertainties and the future imbalances due to the baby-boomers' retirement are cause for major concern. A key issue before Congress and the President is how to begin to prepare for the budgetary shortfalls that will surely arise. I find it helpful to think about this problem of the immediate surpluses in terms of ourselves and our children and grandchildren. If we cut taxes or increase spending now we can certainly provide benefits for ourselves. On the other hand, if we keep the surpluses to pay down the country's debt, that will boost the supply of private savings and investment and provide higher incomes for the next generations. Passing on a huge debt burden, which today requires interest payments of almost \$250 billion each year, is quite unfair to our

children and grandchildren and it is a poor way to prepare for the next century.

We cannot count on the favorable trends continuing; the wise thing to do is to wait and see what happens. We should also wait until Congress takes steps to shore up Social Security. We should not be spending the surpluses until the government's revenue and spending excluding Social Security are in balance and Social Security's long-term fiscal imbalance has been addressed. It is certainly premature to talk about spending a surplus when we have huge entitlement costs looming before us in the near future. We shouldn't spend money we may not have. Moreover, I don't see the American people crying out for government action, either on the spending side or the revenue side. And, with the economy performing quite well, I see little reason for changing the government's fiscal approach at the present time. So I think we should resist the proposals calling for new tax cuts or increased government spending. I believe we will get a higher economic return from future surpluses by using them to whittle down the \$3.8 trillion in federal debt held by the public.

I understand that it is possible to use the surplus to carefully craft tax cuts or new spending programs that deepen the nation's long-term capital base and encourage economic growth. But I am not at all sure that those sound proposals would emerge from the legislative process. On balance debt reduction probably makes more sense.

#### CONCLUSION

So my preference is to leave the budget surplus alone, and if sizeable surpluses do in fact arrive they should be committed to our future, not to the present. It seems clear to me that those who want to reduce the surpluses, whether by tax cuts or spending increases, will be impairing the incomes of our children and grandchildren. They are making a clear choice, preferring our generation to future generations.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE ISRAELI MIA'S

##### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the capture of several Israeli soldiers who were taken prisoner by the Syrians in the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The Syrians succeeded in capturing Sgt. Zachary Baumel, 1st Sgt. Zvi Feldman and Cpt. Yehudah Katz. Upon arrival in Damascus, the identified tank and crew were paraded through the streets draped in Syrian and Palestinian flags.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the Israeli and the United States Governments have been working to obtain any possible information about the fate of these missing soldiers, joining forces with the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations and other international bodies. According to the Geneva convention, the area in Lebanon where the soldiers first disappeared was continually controlled by Syria, therefore deeming her responsible for the treatment of the captured soldiers. To this day, despite the promises made by the Syrian Government and by the PLO, very little information has been forthcoming about the condition of

Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

June 11 marks the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Sixteen pain-filled years have already passed since the families of the MIA's have last seen their sons, and yet President Assad has still not revealed their whereabouts.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my district in Brooklyn, NY. A dedicated basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members, and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate had unfortunately decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982 he vanished.

Zachary's parents, Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations. The Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls forged a project that has increased awareness and support for the MIAs plight for freedom. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their devoted efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in commending their efforts. These families have been without their children for sixteen years. Answers must be found.

#### THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARYLAND REHABILITATION CENTER

##### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Maryland Rehabilitation Center, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on June 19, 1998. Since opening its doors in 1973, the Center has gained international recognition as a provider of quality comprehensive rehabilitation services. At the Center, more than 50,000 individuals with disabilities have received the services they need to help them reach employment goals and achieve greater independence.

Located on 14 acres in northeast Baltimore, Maryland, the Maryland Rehabilitation Center is operated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services. It is one of only nine comprehensive vocational rehabilitation centers in the United States, and has earned an international reputation for its innovative approach to helping individuals circumvent or compensate for their disabilities.

In carrying out its mission, the Center offers a wide variety of services, including evaluations, therapies, and training programs. In helping those with disabilities become as inde-

pendent as possible, the Center helps identify suitable vocational goals and therapy needs.

Occupational training is offered in 12 areas, including office technology, computer programming, automotive repair and cosmetology. The Center often works with employers to hire qualified individuals who have the skills to do the job. In addition, the Center also offers remedial education, counseling, driver's education and specialized services for individuals who are deaf and/or blind.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the Maryland Rehabilitation Center for its dedication and commitment to helping those with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. The Center's pioneering work has given thousands of individuals an opportunity to achieve success.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SPINA

##### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a remarkable man, Samuel Spina, the Mayor of the Township of West Orange, New Jersey. Sam and I have worked together for many years. His colleagues and I agree that he has always been considered to be one of the most dedicated and conscientious public servants in our great state.

Born and raised in West Orange, Sam attended local schools and received his degree from Seton Hall University. Following graduation, Sam served our country in the United States Marine Corps. After completing his service commitment, he returned to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Joan Coen. Settling in West Orange, they raised seven children, and have more recently been blessed with six grandchildren.

Mayor Spina began his distinguished career in public service in 1970 when he was elected to the West Orange Township Council, receiving more votes than any other candidate in that open election. In May 1978, Sam was elected Mayor for the first time. In 1982, Sam became the first candidate for Mayor to run unopposed in the history of West Orange. Clearly his talents and keen insight into public policy were not lost on the electorate. After being elected to an unprecedented fifth term in 1994, he continues to serve in that position to this day.

The citizens' appreciation of Sam's service and the recognition from his peers have been unparalleled. He was elected to serve as the President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in April 1988. Mayor Spina took the office to which he was elected seriously, making a concerted effort to educate the people of the Garden State on the fundamentals of local government. In 1991, he was elected Chairman of the Essex County Conference of Mayors.

In addition to his respected political career, Sam has been extremely active in the West Orange community. Known throughout Essex County as a man who gives freely of his time, he frequently can be seen at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He is also dedicated to recognizing and promoting the interests of our seniors and disabled citizens, often organizing